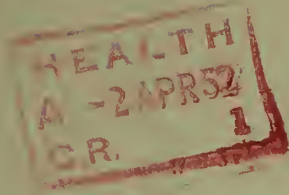


LIBRARY



URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE
SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEARS
1948, 1949 & 1950.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1948, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health. The Report includes the usual statistical tables.

The general health of the District continues to be very satisfactory and calls for no special comment.

It is with pleasure that I record my thanks to Mr. H. Snelling, Clerk to the Council, and to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for their very helpful co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Madam & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. H. B. Light,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	5,525 acres
Population - Registrar-General's estimate	3,937
Rateable value on April 1st 1948	£21,360
Sum represented by a penny rate on April 1st 1948 (gross)	£87. 1. 4

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	67	30	37	Birth rate per 1000 of resident population (estimated 17.45)
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Stillbirths		0	0	0	
Deaths		54	29	25	Crude death rate per 1000 estimated population: 14.07

This includes 22 Inward Transferable Deaths
1 Outward " "

Death from Puerperal causes:-

From Puerperal Sepsis 0
Other Puerperal causes 0

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	2	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	29.85
Death from Cancer (all ages)	5
" " Measles	0
" " Whooping Cough	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Tabular Statement of Deaths classified according to ages:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Under 1 year	2
5 and under 15	1
15 " " 25	1
35 " " 45	1
45 " " 55	4
55 " " 65	11
65 " " 75	14
75 and upwards	<u>20</u>
Total	<u>54</u>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The water supplied to the District by the Council's Waterworks was adequate in quantity throughout the year and was consistently good in quality, a total of 9 samples being taken from the water going into supply.

The chemical analysis of a sample taken from the bore tube (untreated) on 3rd February 1948 was as follows:-

Appearance - Bright with a few particles of mineral debris.

Colour (Hazen) Nil	Odour Nil
Reaction pH Faint alkaline 8.4	Free Carbon Dioxide Absent
Electric Conductivity at 20° C. 1800	Total Solids, dried at 180° C. 1094
Chlorine in Chlorides 368	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 360
Turbidity (Silica Scale) Less than 5	Hardness: Total 25 Carbonate (Temporary) 25 Non-carbonate (permanent) 0
Nitrogen in Nitrates 1.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites 0.01
Free Ammonia 0.44	Oxygen absorbed (Approx.) in 4 hours at 27° C. 0.32
Albuminoid Ammonia 0.010	Residual Chlorine -
Metals Iron: less than 0.03	Other metal absent.
(Chemical results in parts per million).	

Rat Destruction

No major infestation of rats existed in the District throughout the year. The Council's Operator inspected the whole area and dealt with dwelling houses where rats were found, whilst the occupiers of business premises were served with notices to take steps to destroy rodents on their premises. The Council's refuse tip and sewers and Sewerage Works were also subjected to regular control.

INSPECTIONS ON COMPLAINT

The total inspections made on complaint were 28 and the number of defects or nuisances revealed was 23. Informal Notices were at once served on the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1948

1. Number of houses erected during the year:

(i) by local Authorities	25
(ii) by private enterprise	<u>2</u>
	<u>27</u>

2. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	28
(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	23

3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	9
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4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
--	---

Squatters

A Nissen Hut was occupied by Squatters who were rehoused by the Council, the hut being converted afterwards to a garage and store by the owner of the land.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As a result of the examination of foodstuffs in shops and warehouses the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Tinned Foods etc.</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Coffee		1 tin
Fish		1 "
Fruit		5 tins
Jam		2 "
Malted Milk		16 bottles
Meat		15 tins
Meat Extract		12 bottles
Meat Sauce		2 "
Milk		13 tins
Soup		7 "
Syrup		1 tin
Tomato Juice		1 "
Vegetables		16 tins

Other Foods

Beef	195 lbs.
Bun and Cake Mixture	113 packets
Mutton	5 lbs.
Olives	16 packets
Pigs liver and spleen	10½ lbs.
Pudding Mixture	4 packets
Salad Dressing	1 gallon
Scone Flour	17 packets

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Number of Cases notified	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever
	0	6	0	0
	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Measles
	0	2	1	90
		Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis (acute)	
		4	0	

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1948

<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Encephalitis lethargica	1	0	1
Cancer, Malignant disease	3	2	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	2	12	14
Heart disease	10	5	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	3	6
Cirrhosis of liver	0	0	0
Other diseases of liver	0	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	2	0	2
Congenital debility, malformation, premature birth	2	0	2
Senility	3	2	5
Suicide	1	0	1
Other deaths from violence	1	0	1
	<u>28</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>53</u>

Haemorrhage from ruptured liver. Run over by wheel of tractor trailer whilst riding on drawbar.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1949

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1949, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health. The Report includes the usual statistical tables.

The general health of the District continues to be very satisfactory and calls for no special comment.

It is with pleasure that I record my thanks to Mr. H. Snelling, Clerk to the Council, and to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for their very helpful co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Madam & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. H. B. Light,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	5,525 acres
Population - Registrar-General's estimate	4,000
Rateable value on April 1st 1949	£22,201
Sum represented by a penny rate on April 1st 1949 (gross)	£86.18.10

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	50	28	22	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population: 13.07
Legitimate				
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Stillbirths	0	0	0	
Deaths	60	32	28	Crude death rate per 1000 estimated population: 15.38

This includes 23 Inward Transferable Deaths
2 Outward " "

Death from Puerperal causes:-

From Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal causes	0

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	78.43
Death from Cancer (all ages)	9
" " Measles	0
" " Whooping cough	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

Tabular Statement of Deaths classified according to ages:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Under 1 year	4
25 and under 35	2
35 " " 45	3
45 " " 55	7
55 " " 65	7
65 " " 75	10
75 and over	27
Total	<u>60</u>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The water supply to the district by the Council's Waterworks was adequate in quantity throughout the year. A sample taken on the 10th January for both chemical and bacteriological analysis and labelled Abyssinian tubes was reported on as follows:-

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron, but as the water is very faintly acid in reaction and has an appreciable content of free carbon dioxide, a corrosive tendency towards metals would be anticipated. It is hard in character, although its hardness and content of saline and mineral constituents in solution are not excessive, and is of satisfactory organic quality. It is of satisfactory bacterial purity inasmuch as coliform organisms, which are not of faecal type, are present in only minimal numbers. These results are consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

Out of a total of fourteen samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year, one received an adverse report. This was a sample labelled Ostend Water Tower and taken on the 26th August. The report was as follows:-

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance but contains organisms of excremental origin in appreciable numbers. The water is not, therefore, considered suitable for drinking and domestic purposes and immediate investigation as to the cause of the contamination and its rectification is required."

The water was drained from the tower and the inside examined when the cable and internal walls were found to be slimy. The Analyst's report on a sample of this deposit read:-

"The deposit consists of a moss (*Amblystegium Kochii*) together with fresh water snails, amorphous organic matter and iron oxide. These conditions are undesirable in a service reservoir."

A burst pipe was found in the farmyard of Littlejohns Farm, Ostend, and was repaired. It seems likely that this was the source of pollution.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The town is drained on the combined system and consists of two areas, one having its main outfall sewer passing down Station Road and the High Street, the other comprising the higher portion of the town, being intercepted from the older system by a sewer running via Western Road and Silver Road. Both these sewers discharge at the Sewage Works, the effluent passing to a tidal river.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house refuse is made and is disposed of by controlled tipping in the Council's Playing Fields, a widening of the river wall being effected thereby.

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Bakehouses

There are four bakehouses in the town.

Schools

The schools in the district are supplied with water from the town mains. It was not necessary during the year to close any schools on account of infectious disease.

Slaughtermen

There are two licensed slaughtermen in the town.

Inspection of Factories and other premises

There was a total of 38 factories on the register in which the provisions of Section 7 only of the Factories Act 1937 are enforceable by the District Council.

One outworker employed in the trade of knitwear was notified during the year.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919

No major infestation of rats existed in the district throughout the year. The Council's operator inspected the whole area dealing with dwelling houses where rats were found, whilst the occupiers of business premises were served with notices to take steps to destroy rodents on their premises. The Council's refuse tip and sewers and Sewage Disposal Works were also subjected to regular control.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949

(i) by the Local Authority	11
(ii) by private enterprise	2
(iii) war damage rebuilds	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>14</u>

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	30
Informal Notices served	22
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers	20
Action under Statutory Powers during the year - Proceedings under Public Health Act.	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

During the year under review there were on the Registers for this District 10 persons carrying on the trade of cowkeeper, or dairy-man, and 12 farms and other premises which were used as dairies.

On the 1st October new milk regulations came into operation and the registration of all persons carrying on the trade of dairy farmer and of all dairy farms became the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Central control should, ultimately, mean the establishment of a uniform standard throughout the country but, whilst some authorities were more vigorous than others in enforcing the necessary legal requirements with a resultant variation in standards of production, and buildings; without adequate staff and support from Councils, there was little that could be done.

Registration of milk distributors (who are not also producers) and of premises used as dairies (not being dairy farms) remains with the Local Authority.

Meat and other foods

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district but no regular slaughtering is carried on therein.

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other articles found unfit for human consumption which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed or used for animal feeding purposes or returned to the Ministry of Food for processing purposes.

Tinned foods

<u>Article</u>	<u>No. of tins</u>
Milk	2
Minced beef	1
Plums	1

Other foods

<u>Article</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Bacon	4 lbs
Beef	79 lbs.
Cat fish	2 stone
Dabs	5 stone
Haddock	5 stone
Lobster	40 lbs.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Number of Cases notified	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever
	0	2	0	0
	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Measles
	0	3	6	38
	Whooping Cough	Polioomyelitis (acute)	Polioencephalitis (acute)	
	6	0	1	

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality

<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	2	0	2
Cancer, Malignant disease	4	8	12
Cerebral haemorrhage	3	6	9
Heart disease	9	8	17
Other circulatory Diseases	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2	7
Acute & chronic nephritis	1	0	1
Senility	3	2	5
Suicide	0	0	0
Other deaths from violence	2	0	2
Peritonitis	0	1	1
All other causes	2	0	2

One, drowned accidentally.
One, Prussic Acid poisoning.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the district for the year 1950, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health. The Report includes the usual statistical tables.

The general health of the District continues to be very satisfactory and calls for no special comment.

I regret to report that owing to ill health Mr. E.J. Head, C.R.S.I., A.I.A.S., resigned his appointment early in the year, Mr. K.V. Sproat, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., being appointed Sanitary Inspector as from the beginning of September.

It is with pleasure that I record my thanks to Mr. Snelling, Clerk to the Council, for his very helpful co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Madam & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. H. B. Light,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	5,525 acres
Population - Registrar-General's estimate	3,963
Rateable value on April 1st 1950	£22,610
Sum represented by a penny rate on April 1st 1950 (gross)	£88.19.10

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	Legitimate	55	22	33	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population: 14.48
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Stillbirths		0	0	0	
Deaths		56	27	29	

This includes 22 Inward Transferable Deaths
1 Outward " "

Death from Puerperal causes:-

From Puerperal Sepsis	0
Other Puerperal causes	0

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	17.86
Death from Cancer (all ages)	5
" " Measles	0
" " Whooping Cough	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Tabular Statement of Deaths classified according to ages:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
under 1 year	1
5 and under 15	1
35 " " 45	2
45 " " 55	6
55 " " 65	7
65 " " 75	15
75 and over	<u>24</u>
Total	<u>56</u>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The public water supply to the District by the Council's Waterworks was adequate in quantity throughout the year under review.

A total of 21 samples was taken from the water going into supply and these were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1., through the Essex County Council Bacteriological Laboratories Service.

The quality, mainly, was of a satisfactory standard, but adverse reports were received of samples taken from the Abyssinian Tubes early in the year.

As a result of this it was recommended that the pumping of water from this source into the public supply be discontinued until such time as the treatment of the water was put on a proper basis. It was ultimately decided to take samples at intervals of not more than one week and subsequent results have been indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Following receipt of an adverse report on a sample taken from a private well in the District, the owner of the premises concerned was immediately informed and advised of the legal position, the tenant being instructed to boil water before drinking. The premises were eventually connected to the public main within a period of three weeks and without the necessity for formal action.

There still remains, however, 12 private sources of supply in the area and these are all shallow wells. One of these wells supplies a total of 16 premises, 13 by means of a private main, another supplies 5 premises, 3 by means of a private main and a further one serves 4 houses.

INSPECTIONS ON COMPLAINT

The number of complaints received at the office was 54.

The total inspections made on complaint were 56, and the number of defects or nuisances revealed was 13, which are analysed in the following table. Informal notices were at once served on the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned.

TABLE 1

General housing defects	6
Verminous premises	2
Defective water supply piping or fittings	1
Lack of proper water supply	1
Defective Drainage	1
Blocked drains	1
Blocked sewers	1
	<u>13</u>

Summary of Inspections

The total number of inspections made of various premises for all purposes is summarised below, together with the number of defects found under specific headings.

TABLE 2

	<u>Inspections made</u>	<u>Nuisances or Defects found</u>
Housing Acts, 1936 to 1949		
Inspections	8	6
Re-visits re: Notices served	9	
On Complaint	56	7
Food Premises		
Meat	10	1
Fish	12	
Fried Fish	8	3
General Provisions	58	3
Others	24	2
Ice Cream Premises	32	8
Dairies	6	1
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	27	2
Other Food Preparing Premises	9	3
Factories	59	14
Re-visits re: Notices served (excl. Housing Acts)	63	
Other Re-visits	10	
Movable Dwellings	2	
Shops Act (Sanitary Conditions)	120	2
Private Conveniences	15	7
Rodent Control	136	21
Interviews (excl. Office Interviews)	11	
Private Water Supplies	19	1
Miscellaneous Visits	<u>16</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>710</u>	<u>81</u>

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS ETC. WHICH
ARE SUBJECT TO SPECIAL CONTROL

Bakehouses

There are 3 of these premises within the District and informal action was necessary in two instances in order to secure necessary cleansing and limewashing.

Dairies

There are two dairies (not being dairy farms) on the Register and informal action was necessary in the case of one of them in order to secure a supply of hot water.

Factories

There is now a total of 48 Factories on the Register for the District.

Fifty nine visits were paid, and, in eleven instances, informal action was taken to secure the necessary artificial lighting of the sanitary conveniences provided. Two cases were discovered where there was no intervening ventilated space between the sanitary accommodation and workroom, and these were brought to the attention of the occupiers of the premises concerned.

One case was referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories where no sanitary accommodation was provided for the use of persons employed in the factory and, in this instance, formal notice was served on the occupier of the premises.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspection (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
i Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	18	19			1
ii Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	29	40			2
iii Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1				3
Total		48	59			

Ø i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions, (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2. Cases in which defects were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insuffi- cient	9				1		9
(b) unsuitable or de- fective	10	13					10
Total	60	13			1		60

Ice Cream Premises

At the end of the year under review the number of registered premises from which ice-cream was retailed totalled 18, and this figure included one manufacturer of a complete cold mix.

Because of the operation in this District of Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 (which deals with the registration of vendors of ice cream and premises used by them), Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 (which deals with the registration of premises used in connection with the manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream or the preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale) does not apply until the Minister of Food, on the application of the Council, declares it to be in force therein.

Application therefore was made to the Minister that Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 should apply in this District and that those parts of Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 which relate to the registration of vendors should remain in force.

With further reference to the question of registration of this particular class of premises, attention is directed to that part of the report under the heading 'Survey of Food Premises'.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Grounds

Circumstances similar to the above exist in relation to movable dwellings and camping grounds.

Because of the operation in this District of Section 111 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 (which deals with the power of a local authority to make byelaws for the purpose of securing the amenities of their district in relation to the use of camping grounds and movable dwellings situate thereon) Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 (which deals with the power of a local authority to control the use of movable dwellings by granting (a) licences authorising persons to allow land occupied by them within the district to be used as sites for movable dwellings, and (b) licences authorising persons to erect or station and use such dwellings within the district) does not apply until the Minister of Health, on the application of the Council, declares it to be in force therein.

Application was therefore made to the Minister that Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 should apply in this District and that Section 111 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 should be repealed, and also Section 114 of the same Act, insofar as it related to the provisions of Section 111.

There are two camping grounds in this District, one of them, sited on the west side of the playing fields, being owned by the Council.

Rodent Control

During the year under review 136 visits were paid in this connection, a total of 34 premises of various classes being inspected. Infestation was discovered in 23 instances, the number of complete treatments carried out being 13.

Both the Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tip were found to be infested to a degree classified as 'Major'. That is to say the estimated rat population exceeded 20.

In the case of the Tip, a weekly poisoning cycle was instituted and this was proved to be an effective method.

The Sewage Disposal Works, on the other hand, presented a number of problems associated mainly with the nature of the site and it was felt that more drastic action was called for. To this end a special type of pump was borrowed with the intention of gassing the runs with a proprietary cyanide preparation. Unfortunately this work had to be held over owing to unfavourable weather conditions, and a poisoning cycle, similar to that in operation at the Tip, was commenced meanwhile.

On the 31st March 1950 the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 came into operation, the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 being repealed. The important difference is that Borough and District Councils are now directly vested, whereas formerly the vesting was in County Councils, with the right of delegation to Borough and District Councils willing to accept the duties.

Occupiers of land (includes land covered with water, and any building or part of a building) are now obliged to give written notice to the Local Authority when they have knowledge that rats or mice are present in substantial numbers, but this new requirement does not remove the right of the occupier to arrange for the destruction of rats or mice on his premises, nor does the exercise of that right relieve him of the duty of giving notice.

Local authorities are enabled, by Formal Notice, to require owners and occupiers of land to comply with requirements in conformity with the general duty on Local Authorities to secure that their districts, so far as practicable, are kept free from rats and mice. This important new inclusion of owners removes the former serious impediment which was inseparable from the sole duty being upon occupiers with limitations to the steps which it was reasonably practicable for them to take.

It is incumbent upon Local Authorities to inform the appropriate County Agricultural Executive Committee forthwith where notice is served on an occupier of agricultural land.

The Act provides only one exception to the principle that the owner or occupier has a right to arrange for the destruction of rats or mice on his property, whether or not pursuant to a notice served on him, and this is that the local authority may dispense with individual notices of requirement where they are satisfied that rats or mice are present in substantial numbers in a group of separately occupied premises in a 'block', that by the service of notices giving to each individual occupier 'a reasonable period' within which to comply, a satisfactory clearance could not be made, and that it is therefore necessary to treat the 'block' as a unit. The local authority is empowered to take the steps necessary or expedient, and in such cases each occupier is entitled to at least 7 days notice of intention to enter for the purpose, and also to 24 hours notice before actual entry is made.

Owners or occupiers of food premises are required to notify the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries, and not the Local Authority, of any infestation on their premises which involves an immediate and substantial loss of or damage to food.

It will be seen that the new Act greatly strengthens the powers of Local Authorities and furnishes them with the means of achieving radical improvement in the control of rats and mice, as the primary obligation is now upon them to ensure that, so far as practicable, its area is kept free from rats and mice. This duty was formerly laid upon the individual occupier, coupled with a right to the Local Authority to enforce the requirement upon him.

Shops

On the 1st October 1950 the Shops Act 1950 came into operation.

This Act made no changes in the law but consolidated the Shops Acts 1912 to 1938, and certain other enactments relating to shops.

It is to be regretted that responsibility for the administration of Section 38, relating to sanitary and other arrangements in shops, is still divided between sanitary authorities (i.e. the Councils of Boroughs, or Urban or Rural Districts) on the one hand and Local Authorities (i.e. the Councils of Boroughs, Urban Districts with a population of 20,000 or over and County Councils) on the other, as it would have been particularly desirable for the provisions of Sub-Sections (4) and (5) which relate to washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals, also to be enforceable by the Sanitary Authority.

There is a total of 102 premises in this District in which the provisions of Sub-Sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, which relate to ventilation, heating, sanitary accommodation and lighting, are enforceable by this Council.

Slaughtermen

There are two persons in the district who have been granted licences under the provisions of Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 to slaughter animals in a slaughter-house or knacker's yard in accordance with the provisions of the said Act.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950

1. Number of Houses erected during the year

(i)	by the Local Authority	8
(ii)	by Private Enterprise	1
(iii)	War Damage Rebuilds	<u>1</u>
		<u>10</u>

2. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	14
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	17
(2)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	14

3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	14
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Clean Food Byelaws

Application was made to the Minister of Food to confirm the the application to this District of the Model Byelaws, Series 1 - Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with the amendment that in the interpretation clause 'Room' should include any craft on the river or foreshore.

Milk Supply

There are two dairies (not being dairy farms) on the register for this District; the number of distributors of milk, being persons trading as dairymen elsewhere than at or from premises in relation to which they may be registered as dairy farmers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, is 3.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1950

One Supplementary Licence, to sell milk as Pasteurised, was granted during the year for the sale of milk under the special designations, as provided by the above Regulations.

Meat and Other Foods

The following list gives details of the diseased or unsound meat and other articles found unfit for human consumption, which were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed or used for animal feeding purposes, or returned to the Ministry of Food for processing purposes:-

TINNED FOODS etc.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Fillings	82 jars
Fish	12 tins
Meat	7 tins
Meat and Fish Pastes	47 jars
Milk	97 tins
Pickles	98 jars
Soups	271 tins
Vegetables	115 tins

OTHER FOODS

Bacon	3 lbs
Cake and Pudding Mixtures	433 packets
Cereals	52 packets
Cheese	14 lbs
Eggs	9 dozen
Fish	12 stones
Flour	102 bags
Soups	37 packets

Survey of Food Premises

During the progress of this survey, eight cases were discovered in which ice-cream was being sold without the appropriate registration having been made. The matter was reported to the Council's Public Health and General Purposes Committee, as a result of which the persons concerned were requested to take immediate steps to regularise their position.

A total of 68 premises was inspected, 85 visits being made for the purpose, and given below is a table showing the various defects and other contraventions which were discovered:--

Dirty walls and ceiling	16
Floors defective and uneven	3
Insanitary water closets	2
No hot water supply	2
Insufficient supply of hot water	1
No intervening ventilated space between sanitary convenience and food room	1
No waste pipe to sink	1
Walls defective	1
W.C. not lighted	1

In connection with the question of hot water supply 41 (or just over 60 per cent) had a constant supply which was provided either by a low pressure hot water system, or some form of gas or electric water heater.

Whilst appreciating the difficulty in obtaining supplies of wrapping paper at the present time, it was considered advisable, in the case of fishmongers retailing only the wet or dried commodity, and in view of the practice of customers bringing along their own newspaper which almost invariably is not used for any one particular customer, to ask that greaseproof wrapping paper be used in addition to the newspaper. This is a foregone conclusion with fried fish retailers. At each of the three bread and flour confectioners shops in the District there was kept a supply of tissue, but this was only used at the request of customers.

Of the ten licensed premises, eight had beer engines in use, in two instances the piping consisting either wholly of lead, or lead with rubber connections. In view of the possibility of contracting lead poisoning as a direct result of the consumption of beer containing excessive amounts of lead, it was considered advisable to ask that the use of this form of piping be discontinued.

Only four of the ten premises had a supply of hot water actually in the bar for the washing of glasses and letters were sent to the firms concerned asking that consideration be given to this. In every case a reply was obtained saying that the matter would receive attention and, by the end of the year, a supply of hot water had been installed in the bars of a further two premises.

Inspections of the private sanitary accommodation were carried out in relation to the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936. At five of the premises the external conveniences were found not to be artificially lighted, a state of affairs which tends towards misuse, and this was pointed out to the various firms. In one instance, where a urinal immediately adjoined a ladies W.C., the firm concerned was asked to consider restricting the use of the W.C. to male patrons only, a suitable notice board to be exhibited to this effect, as an additional W.C. for the use of the ladies was already in existence. A letter was also sent to another firm requesting that early attention be given to a urinal which, it was considered, was extremely difficult to keep in a properly clean and sanitary condition owing to the mode of construction.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Number of Cases notified	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever
	0	2	0	0
	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Measles
	0	1	6	0
	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis	Polio-Encephalitis	
	28	0	0	

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulmonary</u>	
Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis Respiratory system	1	0	1
Cancer, Malignant disease	2	3	5
Cerebral haemorrhage	3	13	16
Heart disease	10	10	20
Other circulatory disease	1	0	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	2	2
Peptic ulcer	1	0	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	1	0	1
Congenital debility, malformation & prematurity	0	1	1
Senility	3	0	3
Suicide	2	0	2
Other deaths from violence (Drowning)	1	0	1
Cerebral abscess	1	0	1
Disseminated sclerosis	1	0	1